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REISSUE APPLICATION DECLARATION BY THE INVENTOR

Docket Number (Optional)

1453/US/2

I hereby declare that:

Each inventor's residence, mailing address and citizenship are stated below next to their name.

I believe the inventors named below to be the original and first inventor(s) of the subject matter which is described and claimed in patent number 6,422,288, granted 23 July 2002

and for which a reissue patent is sought on the invention entitled VENETIAN BLIND WITH VARIABLE TILTING

the specification of which

☐ is attached hereto.

☒ was filed on 21 July 2003 as reissue application number 10/624,938
and was amended on _____
(If applicable)

I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56.

☐ I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) or (f), or 365(b). Attached is form PTO/SB/02B (or equivalent) listing the foreign applications.

I verily believe the original patent to be wholly or partly inoperative or invalid, for the reasons described below. (Check all boxes that apply.)

☐ by reason of a defective specification or drawing.

☒ by reason of the patentee claiming more or less than he had the right to claim in the patent.

☐ by reason of other errors.

At least one error upon which reissue is based is described below. If the reissue is a broadening reissue, such must be stated with an explanation as to the nature of the broadening:

Applicant failed to cover aspects of its "variable tilting" which were specifically disclosed but never specifically claimed. The original claims, as well as new claims 24-34 have a variable tilting feature that operates in generally the same way. However, the "engaging means" of claims 24-34 do not reference guiding loops on the ladder cord as found in claims 1-23. Rather, the guiding function of the loops on the ladder cord is incorporated in the engaging collar of new claims 24-34.

[See pages 4 and 5 for further comments]

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This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.175. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 30 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

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(REISSUE APPLICATION DECLARATION BY THE INVENTOR, page 2)

Docket Number (Optional)
1453/US/2

All errors corrected in this reissue application arose without any deceptive intention on the part of the applicant. As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the United States Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

Name(s)

Registration Number

All attorneys and agents associated with USPTO Customer No. 20686

Correspondence Address: Direct all communications about the application to:



Customer Number

20686

Type Customer Number here

Place Customer Number Bar
Code Label hereFirm or
Individual Name

Address

Address

City

State

Zip

Country

Telephone

Fax

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine and imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. 1001, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this declaration is directed.

Full name of sole or first inventor (given name, family

Nicolaas Dekker

Inventor's signature

Date

7-8-03 (August 7, 2003)

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Mailing Address Pottenbakkerij 19, 2993 CN Barendrecht, The Netherlands

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Antonius Johannes Josephus Horsten

Inventor's signature

Date

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Full name of third joint inventor (given name, family name)

Inventor's signature

Date

Residence

Citizenship

Mailing Address

☐ Additional joint inventors are named on separately numbered sheets attached hereto.

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Full name of sole or first inventor (given name, family name)
Nicolaas Dekker

Inventor's signature

Date

Residence Barendrecht, The Netherlands

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Full name of second joint inventor (given name, family name)

Antonius Johannes Josephus Horsten

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Date

2 September 2003

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Full name of third joint inventor (given name, family name)

Inventor's signature

Date

Residence

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Mailing Address

☐ Additional joint inventors are named on separately numbered sheets attached hereto.

In order to be more specific as to what is found in claims 24-34 that is not found in original claims 1-23, or vice versa, it should be noted as follows: With reference to claim 1, upon which claims 2, 3, and 14-23 are dependent, and specifically in column 12, lines 19 and 20 of the patent, it is stated the engagement means includes "a guiding loop on said first vertical member" and thereafter in the claim defines the relationship of the guiding loop to a bead fixed on the auxiliary tilt cord and an engaging collar slidably positioned on the auxiliary tilt cord. This arrangement is not found in new claims 24-34. In other words, in new claim 24, upon which claims 25, 26, and 28-34 are dependent, the engaging means is defined as including an engaging collar slidably positioned on the auxiliary tilt cord but there is no reference to guiding loops as found in claim 1 and the claims dependent thereon. Claim 24 further defines the relationship of the specified engaging means to other elements of the blind, which is different from the relationship of the guiding loops included in the engaging means of claim 1 and the claims dependent thereon.

Further, independent claim 4 found in the original patent defines the engaging means in a broad way and does not specify the engaging means as including the engaging collar of claim 24 and the claims dependent thereon. The engaging means in claim 4 is defined in column 12, lines 59-67 of the patent, and it can be appreciated that that description of the engaging means is quite distinct from the description of the engaging means found in claim 24, commencing in line 21 of the patent and continuing through to the end of the claim. Claims 25, 26, and 28-34 being dependent upon claim 24 are claims directed to a venetian blind having the slidable engaging collar as defined

in claim 24 at the location specified so these claims are felt to be distinct from claim 4 and claims 5-13, which are dependent thereon.

Applicant further notes that an error occurred in the drawing of the original patent in that the drawing did not include an illustration of the embodiment of applicant's invention found in column 10, line 65 through column 11, line 8 of the patent specification. In order to correct that error, a new Fig. 8 has been added to the patent, which provides support for the disclosure noted in the specification and for new claims 24-34. The specification has been amended to incorporate reference to new Fig. 8.